

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9951

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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EO 11652 : N/A

TAGS : PINT MX FR PFOR

SUBJ : MITTERAND VISIT TO MEXICO

REF : PARIS 1584

1. MITTERAND AVOIDED MAKING ANY SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL STATEMENT DURING HIS JAN 25-26 VISIT TO MEXICO, DODGING QUESTIONS ON FRENCH AFFAIRS WITH THE COMMENT THAT HE DID NOT CUSTOMARILY EXPRESS JUDGMENTS ON INTERNAL FRENCH MATTERS OUTSIDE FRANCE AND TAKING A SIMILAR POSITION ON MEXICAN AFFAIRS, I.E., THAT HE WAS A GUEST IN MEXICO. NONETHELESS HE DID MAKE THE FOLLOWING PARAPHRASED COMMENTS (TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH TO SPANISH TO ENGLISH) WHICH MAY BE OF SOME INTEREST:

ON RELEASE OF ABOUD DAOUD: DAOUD'S ARREST FOLLOWED BY HIS ALMOST IMMEDIATE RELEASE INDICATED EITHER THAT HE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR THAT HE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SET FREE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE WEST GERMANS DID NOT SEEM TO WANT DAOUD VERY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BADLY.

ON PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT: ONE PURPOSE WAS TO SEE THE KIND OF RELATIONS WHICH MEXICO, COSTA RICA AND VENEZUELA HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CREATE WITH THE UNITED STATES. ON DISARMAMENT STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND SEC GEN BREZHNEV: IT'S EASIER TO OPPOSE INCREASES IN ARMS WHEN ONE IS ALREADY WELL ARMED;

IT'S EASIER TO PROHIBIT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IF
ONE IS ALREADY A NUCLEAR POWER.

2. IN A PUBLIC DIALOGUE WITH PRI LEADERS MITTERAND
SHOWED SOME UNDERSTANDABLE CONFUSION CONCERNING PRI
IDEOLOGY ("WELL, BUT IS IT SOCIALIST?" GOT A "NO, BUT ..."
THIRTY MINUTE REPLY) AND EXPLAINED POSITIONS AND ATTITUDES
OF FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY. MITTERAND CALLED ON PRESIDENT
LOPEZ PORTILLO AND ON FORMER PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, WHO
HAD INVITED HIM TO SOCIAL DEMOCRATS CONFAB HERE LAST
MAY. NO DETAILS OF THESE MEETINGS WERE GIVEN. AS REF
ANTICIPATED, MITTERAND DID A BIT OF SIGHTSEEING AS WELL.
COMMENT: ON MEXICAN SIDE, REAL REASON FOR MITTERAND'S
VISIT WAS PERSONAL INTEREST OF PORTFIRIO MUNOZ LEDO,
AN INTERNATIONALIST AND IDEA MAN WHO AS PRI PRESIDENT
SEPT 1975 - DEC 1976 CREATED AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
COMMISSION ACTIVE IN CREATING NEW CONTACTS WITH EUROPEAN
SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. (MUNOZ STUDIED AT
SORBONNE AND WAS CULTURAL ATTACHE AT MEXICAN EMBASSY
IN PARIS 1965-1966). NOW SECRETARY OF EDUCATION MUNOZ
HAS ALREADY SET UP AN OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
IN EDUCATION MINISTRY; HE ACCOMPANIED MITTERAND THROUGHOUT
MOST OF VISIT. NEW PRI PRESIDENT SANORES PEREZ, A
TRADITIONAL POLITICIAN FROM THE PROVINCES, HAS LITTLE IN
COMMON WITH MITTERAND.
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